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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 KUWAIT 001296

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USAID FOR DCHA/OTI, DCHA/DG, ANE/AA  
USAID FOR DCHA/OFDA:WGARVELINK, BMCCONNELL, KFARNSWORTH  
USAID FOR ANE/AA:WCHAMBERLIN  
ROME FOR FODAG  
GENEVA FOR RMA AND NKYLOH  
DOHA FOR MSHIRLEY  
ANKARA FOR AMB WRPEARSON, ECON AJSIROTI AND DART  
AMMAN FOR USAID AND DART

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [PREF](#) [IZ](#) [WFP](#)

SUBJECT: TFIZ01: USAID/PRM SITUATION REPORT 7 APRIL 2003

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SUMMARY  
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[1](#)1. The first ship containing Australian-donated wheat is expected to off-load at the main port in Kuwait City on 7 April. The DART's APU continues to engage NGOs and Coalition forces on plans for responding to human rights abuses. The USAID Reconstruction Team is working with ORHA, Coalition forces, and international partners to prioritize projects and coordinate plans for reconstruction. END SUMMARY.

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FOOD  
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[1](#)2. The first of two ships carrying Australian-donated wheat was not able to dock at the deep water port in Kuwait on 4 April as scheduled because a military vessel occupied the berth. The ship was expected to dock and unload the 10,000 to 15,000 metric tons (MT) required to lighten the ship so that it may dock at the shallower main port in Kuwait City for final off-loading. It is now expected to dock in the afternoon of 7 April.

[1](#)3. The temporary restoration of the Oil for Food (OFF) program, combined with other pressing non-food needs, has prompted the Government of Australia (GOA) to transfer its initial pledge of AUD\$ 83 million to the World Food Program (WFP) to unspecified U.N. emergency operations under the Flash Appeal (AUD\$ 38 million) and to other undetermined operations (AUD\$ 45 million). The GOA now expects the clearing, milling, and transport costs for the wheat to be covered by the OFF, and the title of the wheat is expected to transfer from the Australian Wheat Board (AWB) to WFP upon arrival.

[1](#)4. During a meeting on the Umm Qasr Port on 5 April, Coalition forces reported that the channel had been cleared to a 200-meter width (the goal is 1,000 meters). The 200-meter width is expected to be sufficient to safely guide even large bulk vessels into port. All nine berths at the old port and three of the berths at the new port have been cleared as well. The remaining nine berths at the new port are expected to be cleared soon.

[1](#)5. WFP stressed that there are two main issues that need to be resolved to give shippers and insurers confidence. The first is the need for Coalition technical assessments to be declassified as soon as possible. The second is that ground rules need to be publicly established regarding safe drafts and areas/berths.

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ABUSE PREVENTION UNIT  
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[1](#)6. On 6 April, the DART's Abuse Prevention Unit (APU) presented its program for dealing with human rights issues at a meeting sponsored by Interaction. Over a dozen NGOs engaged the APU on ways to prevent, deter, and respond to abuses. On 7 April, the APU will meet with Coalition forces to discuss plans for dealing with human rights abuses with Military Police (MPs) and representatives of the Free Iraqi Force (FIF).

[1](#)7. A physician at the Umm Qasr hospital has reportedly received death threats for cooperating with Coalition forces. It has also been reported that the hospital has been closed due to the threats. The DART will follow the situation closely. Many of the town's residents remain fearful of reprisals if they are caught talking to representatives of international organizations or Coalition forces.

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USAID RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE  
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18. The USAID Infrastructure Team has developed a process to prioritize reconstruction projects within USAID contractual authority and project management responsibilities. The intent is to communicate input to USAID from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations (IOs), the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA), and other actors into the priorities of what gets rebuilt and when, within the available budgetary resources.

19. The process balances a political need for a rapid start on reconstruction with the potentially time-consuming process for developing a coordinated Implementation Plan. The USAID Mission has developed a "rolling" process starting with a USAID seaport contractor, airport contractor, and initial assets of the Iraq Infrastructure Reconstruction (IIR) Contractor, as well as available in-theater U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) assets under direction of USAID, culminating with full mobilization of USAID IIR Contractor.

110. USAID's Local Governance team briefed the Danish Foreign Ministry on USAID support for local Iraqi administrations and facilitated their participation in Coalition reconstruction and humanitarian efforts. The Local Governance team established and is leading the ORHA working group on crosscutting, ministerial functions affecting local governance.

111. USAID's Power Sector Team is nearing completion of a fuel supply matrix of all Iraqi power plants, as well as early stage assessment checklist for USACE personnel who will inspect the power plants. The Power Sector Team forwarded a request to military intelligence to secure vital data on on-site fuel storage capacity at all power plants. A reply is expected within three days.

112. ORHA and Coalition Land Forces Component Command (CFLCC) have agreed to support a team of leading civil affairs officers from the 352nd Civil Affairs Command, Department of the Army, to be based with the USAID Reconstruction Team. This will ensure that the initial work of civil affairs officers in Iraq benefits USAID's reconstruction goals. Civil Affairs officers will be provided to USAID in the following areas: education, labor/social affairs, public communication, public works, public transportation, and agriculture. A security liaison will also be provided to the USAID Mission as part of the team.

113. ORHA is planning to deploy initial staff to Umm Qasr, as a first entry point into Iraq, both as a symbol of the on-the-ground-relief/reconstruction presence and as an initial conduit of relief and reconstruction work in Umm Qasr itself. USAID is working with ORHA to define what activities can be expeditiously proposed and implemented. USAID regional coordinators are being sought for the north and southern sectors of Iraq to provide liaison with corresponding ORHA regional coordinators and to help oversee eventual USAID activities in these parts of the country.

114. USAID's Education Unit and Civil Affairs are nearing completion of an operational plan for the first phase of education program implementation in theater. The plan will address school infrastructure repair and supplies, provision of potable water/sanitation, and the textbook review process.

JONES